

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 9-13, 20 and 21 stand rejected as being unpatentable for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claims 2, 4-8, and 14-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 1, 14 and 21 have been amended; claims 2, 12 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice; and new claims 22-29 have been added. No new matter is added by these amendments, full support for the amendments being found in the specification and drawings as filed. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Note to the Examiner:

Although the Office Action Summary page erroneously indicates that only claims 1-20 are pending; claim 21 of the original application is also pending. Applicants' response also addresses pending claim 21. Attached as Exhibit A is a claim chart to clarify the remarks section.

With Respect to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 3, 9-13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent 4,463,651 to Hammer in view of United States Patent 4,685,374 to Goldner for the reasons indicated on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Further, claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent 4,463,651 to

Hammer in view of United States Patent 4,685,374 to Goldner and further in view of United States Patent 6,049,033 to Dallas for the reasons indicated on page 2, paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2, which has been indicated as allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 1 places claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 12 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 3 to 11 are dependent upon amended claim 1 and by definition contain all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 to 11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to claim 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if amended to be independent incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 14 to include all of the limitations of base claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to depend from amended claim 14. Claims 15 to 21 now depend from amended claim 14 and by definition contain all of the limitations of claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 to 21 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is hereby requested.

New Claims 22 to 29

New claims 22-29 are entered as further defining Applicants' invention. The Examiner objected to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claim 22 corresponds to original claim 4 amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, claim 1. There were no intervening claims. New claims 23-29 depend upon new claim 22 and correspond to original claims 5-9 which were dependent from claim 4 and original claims 10 and 11 which were dependent upon original claim 1 (see attached chart). No new matter has been entered.

Entry of these amendments is hereby respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited. If there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone with the Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly.

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Applicants believe that \$185 is due for the addition of five dependent claims and a one month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of this fee and any other fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account Number 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,
SHELDON & MAK PC

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Appendix A

Claim number as originally filed		Corresponding claim number upon entrance of this amendment	Limitations for originally filed claim set
1	Independent	Allowable claim 2 incorporating the limitations of original claim 1	
2	Depends on Claim 1	Canceled	
3	Depends on Claim 1	No change – Depends on Claim 1	
4	Depends on Claim 1	No change – Depends on Claim 1	
5	Depends on Claim 4	No change – Depends on Claim 4	
6	Depends on Claim 5	No change – Depends on Claim 5	
7	Depends on Claim 6	No change – Depends on Claim 6	
8	Depends on Claim 6	No change – Depends on Claim 6	
9	Depends on Claim 1	No change – Depends on Claim 1	
10	Depends on Claim 1	No change – Depends on Claim 1	
11	Depends on Claim 1	No change – Depends on Claim 1	
12	Independent	Canceled	
13	Independent	Canceled	
14	Depends on Claim 13	Amended to add the limitations of claim 13	
15	Depends on Claim 14	No change – Depends on Claim 14	
16	Depends on Claim 15	No change – Depends on Claim 15	
17	Depends on Claim 14	No change – Depends on Claim 14	
18	Depends on Claim 17	No change – Depends on Claim 17	
19	Depends on Claim 17	No change – Depends on Claim 17	
20	Depends on Claim 13	Changed to depend on claim 14	
21	Depends on Claim 13	Changed to depend on claim 14	
	22	New – allowable claim 4 with the limitations of claim 1	
	23	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 5
	24	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 6
	25	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 7
	26	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 8
	27	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 9
	28	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 10
	29	New – depends upon 22	Original claim 11